

*Are you concerned about the communication and language skills of your 2 and 3 year olds?*

*Would you like to increase the frequency of high-quality interactions in your setting?*

*The ShREC Approach embedded in a sustained programme of professional development can help!*



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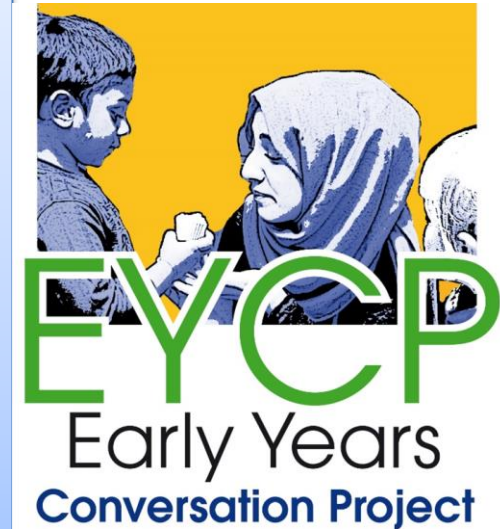
## Early Years Conversation Project Evaluation Study

### Information for Settings

A Brighter Start, East London's Early Years Stronger Practice Hub is delighted to invite **early years' settings** to take part in a study (funded by the Education Endowment Foundation) to evaluate the Early Years Conversation Project (EYCP). The evaluation study is being run by researchers at Durham University. EYCP is designed and delivered by the East London Research School.

EYCP aims to improve children's communication and language skills. It is a programme of professional development focused on training 'EYCP Champions' within settings.

The 'EYCP Champion' should be a room leader or nursery class teacher working directly with children aged 2 or 3. They will receive the training, mentor support and have access to the online learning platform. The setting manager or EYFS lead, will join for specific training sessions, and provide the Champion with support for the length of the programme.



### Who can take part?

- Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) nursery or a state funded school-based nursery offering provision for 2-year-olds.
- Settings located in the following London boroughs: **Barking and Dagenham, Barnet, Brent, Camden, City of London, Enfield, Greenwich, Hackney, Haringey, Havering, Islington, Kensington and Chelsea, Kingston and Richmond, Merton, Newham, Redbridge, Sutton, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest, Wandsworth, Westminster.**
- Settings that have a **minimum of 8 children aged 2-years-old** at the start of September 2024, who will attend the setting for a minimum of 15 hours a week during the 2024-2025 school year.
- Settings that can commit to releasing one practitioner who works directly with 2-3-year-olds as the 'EYCP Champion' to attend all the professional development.
- Settings that can commit to releasing the setting manager or the Early Years Foundation Stage lead for 3 training sessions, in addition to supporting the 'EYCP Champion' throughout the project.
- Settings that have not participated in Manor Park Talks, Newham Communication Project, or Camden Kids Talk.
- Settings that are not taking part in any other Early Years trials funded by the EEF or similar funder in the same academic year as EYCP.

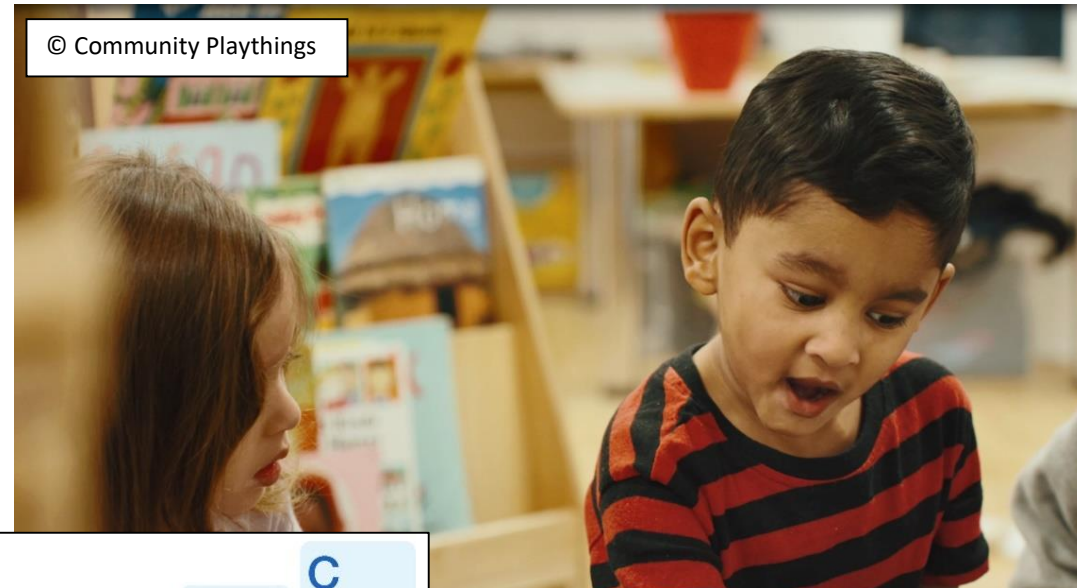
## What are the benefits for my nursery?

- Your setting will receive a promising approach that aims to improve children's communication and language development for FREE.
- There are financial incentives for participating (£150 at the start of the project and £250 at the end) and 50% of cover costs for attendance at training.
- OFSTED want to see settings ensuring that communication and language is their priority. Their 'Best Start in Life part 2' research review states '*Early interactions are crucial to children's language development. The quality and quantity of interactions matter. An environment that promotes and supports young children's language and communication skills will influence their language development*' (2023). This project is a highly-effective way of giving communication and language the special focus it requires in your setting.

## What does the evaluation study involve?

As part of the evaluation study, 35 settings will be chosen at random to receive EYCP for FREE, the other 35 will continue as normal and form the 'control group'. The control group will receive the training in 2025 for FREE. Randomly selecting which settings receive the programme is essential as it is the best way to find out the impact the programme has on children's communication and language skills. Regardless of when a setting receives the training, ALL settings will:

- Receive an incentive payment.
- Inform and gain consent from parent/carers for children's participation evaluation study.
- Share setting and child information with the evaluation team.
- Complete two short questionnaires (in Sept/Oct and again in Jun/Jul), selected settings will take part in a focus group.
- Have research assistants visiting your setting to complete child assessments.



For further information or to register your interest, please email [rizwana.rahman@sheringham-nur.newham.sch.uk](mailto:rizwana.rahman@sheringham-nur.newham.sch.uk) or complete the expression of interest form [here](#).